

Message from Fr. George for Friday, September 10, 2021

Blessing of Fanouropites This Sunday After the Divine Liturgy



...Bless these gifts and those who offered them for Your glory and in honor of the holy and glorious great-martyr Phanourios. Grant also, O Good One, to those who prepared these gifts, all Your earthly and heavenly goods.... (Excerpt from Blessing of Fanouropites Prayer Fr. George will offer this Sunday after church.)



Saint Phanourios (Άγιος Φανούριος) is recognized as a saint by the Greek Orthodox Church. He is commemorated on August 27. He was awarded the Martyr's Crown in the Orthodox Christian faith. He is also well known for finding people's lost belongings after fervent supplications.

This Sunday, join us for our Philoptochos' Annual Fanouropita luncheon. His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios' vision is that through the preparation and sale of Fanouropites, our Philoptochos members can raise money for scholarships for our youth and for educational programs and activities in our Metropolis. In turn, His Eminence prays our efforts will bear much good fruit, especially in the transformed hearts and lives of our young people.

Godparents Sunday on September 19th



Beginning in September and continuing monthly, Fr. George will help our parishioners recognize special relationships we have within God's Holy Church. On September 19th, he will highlight the blessed godchild/godparent relationship.

To celebrate the blessing that Godparents offer in family life and in spiritual journeys, he hopes our Godparents and Godchildren can join us in person or by video livestreaming.

In Remembrance of 9.11.01

This past Saturday, we joined as a nation in prayers and remembrance for the 20th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, Terrorist Attacks. Please continue to pray for God's peace and healing mercy on our world. We thank all the surviving families for the sacrifices of their loved ones who rescued others 20 years ago. We thank the countless angels who ever since have been caring and supporting the survivors from this tragedy. May the memory of the 9/11 victims be eternal. And finally, may we all share the love, mercy, and forgiveness of God with those we encounter to effect peace and goodwill among all. Amen.



20 years ago, in response to the vast devastation from the terrorist attacks, I remember the unity and goodwill of our citizens; they willingly lifted the burdens of others and realized that our freedom depended on our mutual sacrifices to defend and preserve it.

I share the following tribute that captures this spirit. It is an editorial about the U.S.A. that appeared in a Romanian newspaper. It was written by Mr. Cornel Nistorescu and published under the title “C'ntarea Americii”, (meaning “Ode To America”) in the Romanian newspaper *Evenimentul zilei* “*The Daily Event*” or “*News of the Day*”.

An Ode to America

Why are Americans so united? They would not resemble one another even if you painted them all one color! They speak all the languages of the world and form an astonishing mixture of civilizations and religious beliefs.

On 9/11, the American tragedy turned three hundred million people into a hand put on the heart. Nobody rushed to accuse the White House, the Army, or the Secret Service that they are only a bunch of losers. Nobody rushed to empty their bank accounts. Nobody rushed out onto the streets nearby to gape about.

Instead, the Americans volunteered to donate blood and to give a helping hand.

After the first moments of panic, they raised their flag over the smoking ruins, putting on T-shirts, caps, and ties in the colors of the national flag. They placed

flags on buildings and cars as if in every place and on every car a government official or the president was passing. On every occasion, they started singing: "God Bless America!"

I watched the live broadcast and rerun after rerun for hours listening to the story of the guy who went down one hundred floors with a woman in a wheelchair without knowing who she was, or of the Californian hockey player, who gave his life fighting with the terrorists and prevented the plane from hitting a target that could have killed other hundreds or thousands of people.

How on earth were they able to respond united as one human being?

Imperceptibly, with every word and musical note, the memory of some turned into a modern myth of tragic heroes. And with every phone call, millions and millions of dollars were put into collection aimed at rewarding not a man or a family, but a spirit, which no money can buy. *What on earth unites the Americans in such a way? Their land? Their history? Their economic Power? Money?* I tried for hours to find an answer, humming songs, and murmuring phrases with the risk of sounding commonplace, I thought things over, I reached but only one conclusion... ***Only freedom can work such miracles.*** - Cornel Nistorescu

In closing, let us remember always: ***"Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, 'If you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'"*** (John 8:31-32) - Fr. George



(Photo taken of Fox News television broadcast on 9.11.21.
St. Nicholas Church and National Shrine is on the right side of Ground Zero.)

We Remember 9.11.01



[Click to view](#) Memorial Service presided by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and the inaugural lighting of the Saint Nicholas Church and National Shrine on Friday, September 10, 2021, at 7:45 EST.

Adult Religious Education This Sunday

St. Christopher Church – Looking Ahead

Adult Religious Education

Sunday, September 19, 2021:

Assigned Reading is Chapter 2:

On the Imitation of the Mother of God

